

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211408
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA:HHSAUDERS
WHITE HOUSE - MR. JODY POWELL
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----053060 190329Z /15

O 190254Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAMP DAVID MEETING

REF: STATE 208646

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING MAXIMUM PRIVACY AND MINIMUM DAMAGE FROM PRESS REPORTS AND LEAKS. THIS TASK POSES MAJOR PROBLEMS, GIVEN THE ENORMOUS PUBLIC INTEREST WORLDWIDE WHICH THIS MEETING IS GENERATING. THE LONGER THE MEETING LASTS, THE GREATER WILL BE PRESSURE BOTH FROM THE PRESS FOR INFORMATION AND ON PARTICIPANTS TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN VIEWS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. THEREFORE, TO CONTAIN THESE PRESSURES AS CONFIDENTIAL

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MUCH AS POSSIBLE THROUGH ADVANCED ARRANGEMENTS, WE WANT TO MAKE REASONABLY CERTAIN BEFORE THE MEETING THAT ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS ARE ON THE SAME TRACK ABOUT HANDLING THE MEDIA.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY BROACHED THE QUESTION OF PRIVACY WITH BOTH SADAT AND BEGIN DURING HIS RECENT TALKS

AND RECEIVED THEIR GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL WILL BE THE SINGLE BRIEFER DURING THE MEETING. THE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WE PROPOSE FOR

IMPLEMENTING THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT ARE LAID OUT IN THE SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS. YOU SHOULD APPROACH HIGHEST APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS TO MAKE CERTAIN SADAT AND BEGIN UNDERSTAND THESE MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAMP DAVID.

3. POWELL WILL PLAN TO DO ONE DAILY BRIEFING AT THURMONT, MARYLAND, THE TOWN JUST BELOW CAMP DAVID OR AT THE WHITE HOUSE AT A TIME BEST SUITED TO MEET THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FOREIGN AND U.S. DEADLINES. ANY REMARKS FROM THURMONT WILL BE PIPED IN DIRECTLY TO THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM, FOR THOSE CORRESPONDENTS NOT DESIRING TO MAKE THE 90-MINUTE DRIVE FROM WASHINGTON FOR THE THURMONT DATELINE. HIS REMARKS WILL BE A BRIEF FACTUAL PRESENTATION OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES, AND THE BASIC TEXT AGREED DAILY BETWEEN THE THREE SIDES IN ADVANCE. A LARGE BRIEFING ROOM WITH FILING FACILITIES, ACCOMMODATING OVER 100 CORRESPONDENTS, IS BEING SET UP IN THURMONT. WE NEED TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAMES OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELLING FROM ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO COVER THE MEETING, TOGETHER WITH DATE OF BIRTH, PLACE OF BIRTH, AFFILIATION, AND PASSPORT OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

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WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION, THEY CANNOT BE ACCREDITED. UNDER THIS BRIEFING ARRANGEMENT NEITHER PRESIDENT SADAT NOR PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WOULD HAVE THEIR SPOKESMAN AT CAMP DAVID, NOR WOULD THOSE SPOKESMEN OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BE GIVING BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS DURING THE MEETING.

4. TV MEDIA AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS POSE SPECIAL PROBLEMS, SINCE THEY WILL WANT MAXIMUM FOOTAGE OF CAMP DAVID AND ITS ENVIRONS WITH OR WITHOUT THE PRINCIPALS PRESENT. PER PARA 4 OF REFTEL, WE ARE PLANNING TO ARRANGE LIMITED PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN ENLARGED POOL OF STILL AND TV PHOTOGRAPHERS, PLUS A LIMITED NUMBER OF WRITING PRESS, TO COVER THE ARRIVALS AT CAMP DAVID SEPTEMBER 5, AND POSSIBLY ALSO THE OPENING OF THE FIRST MEETINGS THE NEXT DAY. NUMBERS AND COMPOSITION OF THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THAT POOL WILL BE WORKED OUT WITH THE ADVANCE TEAMS HERE. THOSE DESIGNATED MUST ARRANGE TO BE AT THE CAMP DAVID SITE SEPTEMBER 5 WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE ARRIVALS OF THE PRINCIPALS THERE, TO COVER THE LANDINGS, SINCE THE HELICOPTERS WILL NOT HAVE SPACE TO CARRY THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN PRESS WITH SADAT AND BEGIN FROM

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE. BEYOND THESE FIRST OPPORTUNITIES
NOTHING MORE IS NOW PLANNED FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. AS THE
MEETINGS PROGRESS, THE THREE LEADERS WILL DECIDE WHAT
COVERAGE THEY DESIRE AT LATER STAGES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL

OR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCES AT THE END.

5. IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE MEETINGS, NO
AMERICAN OFFICIAL IS GIVING TV OR PRESS INTERVIEWS ABOUT
CAMP DAVID. UNDOUBTEDLY, BOTH SADAT AND BEGIN AND THEIR
KEY ADVISERS WILL BE RECEIVING REQUESTS ALSO TO APPEAR
ON TV TALK SHOWS OR GIVE PRESS INTERVIEWS JUST PRIOR
TO THE MEETINGS. PLEASE PREVAIL UPON THEM TO FOLLOW OUR
EXAMPLE, STRESSING OUR STRONG BELIEF THAT EVERYTHING MUST
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BE DONE TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHERE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY
CAN PREVAIL AWAY FROM THE GLARE OF PUBLICITY.

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